

Copperas Cove added to their successes with a commendable performance by the Bulldawg football team, who advanced to the state championship game in 4A Division I. This marks the first time Copperas Cove has played for a state championship in any division and is the fruit of a season marked by hard work and dedication.

Copperas Cove High School has shown what a school can achieve with no small amount of persistence. I am sure that in addition to the achievements of this season they will have an even brighter future. I admire what they do both athletically and academically; I am proud to represent such a fine institution and wish them the best in their future endeavors. I would like to congratulate them on their efforts this season, and their well-deserved success.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Rodriguez on representing the United States as Señor Internacional during the Washington Birthday Celebration, the largest celebration of its kind in the United States.

Mr. Rodriguez's career has spanned more than two decades and includes starring roles in over 30 films and countless television series and specials. Some of Mr. Paul Rodriguez's series include "Trial and Error," "Grand Slam," and for over four years he hosted "El Show de Paul Rodriguez," an entertainment talk show for the Spanish-language Univision network. This particular show reached an international audience throughout the United States and 17 other countries in Central and South America.

His directorial debut came in 1994 with the film "A Million to Juan," a family comedy in which he also wrote and starred. Mr. Rodriguez moved nicely from television to motion pictures, making his feature film debut in the picture comedy "D.C. Cab," followed by many films such as "Miracles," "Born in East L.A.," and "Made in America." Mr. Rodriguez recently had the opportunity to work with the legendary Clint Eastwood in the film "Bloodwork." It is estimated that Mr. Paul Rodriguez has performed live to well to over one million concert goers from coast to coast. Within Hispanic communities, Mr. Rodriguez is considered the "Original Latin King of Comedy."

Mr. Paul Rodriguez remains strongly rooted in the Latino Community, working with civic and educational groups, and his main contributions go to The National Hispanic Scholarship Fund (NHSF), but he also contributes to such charitable efforts such as Comic Relief, and hosts the annual Elizabeth Glaser Pediatrics AIDS Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament. Mr. Rodriguez is the one of the few stand-up comedians who performs in two languages (Spanish/English) and was voted as one of the most influential Hispanics in America. He has also been the recipient of the Ruben Salazar Award by the National Council of La Raza.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Paul

Rodriguez to the Hispanic-American community in the United States.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENTS: FEBRUARY, 2007

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, Congressman HENRY BROWN (R-SC) and I are introducing legislation today that will extend the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. The program was first authorized in 2000 to address the funding needs of facilities assisting the National Marine Fisheries Service with the recovery and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals. The Prescott Grant Program has been very successful in supporting facilities around the nation volunteering facility space and staff time to rehabilitate marine mammals and return many of them to the wild. For those animals that cannot be returned to the wild, due to illness or other factors, the facilities have taken on the responsibility of caring for those marine mammals.

This legislation will increase the funding for the Department of Commerce from \$4.0 million up to \$6.0 million a year. The bill will cap administrative costs and roll over any unused funds into the grant program to be issued as grants in the following fiscal year. The Administration is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to respond at-sea to marine mammals entangled in floating debris. It will create an emergency assistance process through which the agency will be able to enter into cooperative agreements with stranding facilities to facilitate the movement of funds to facilities responding to stranding events. In addition, the legislation will reauthorize funding for the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund, which allows the agency to respond to mass stranding events and reimburse facilities that have assisted in the response activity.

I applaud the public display facilities and marine mammal research institutions that have dedicated resources and time toward recovering and rehabilitating marine mammals. This legislation will allow the National Marine Fisheries Service and the stranding facilities to continue their important efforts in the future. I urge support for this important conservation measure.

RECOGNIZING BLAKE ALEXANDER MCCARTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Alexander McCarter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blake Alexander McCarter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIREMAN CLINT STEPHENSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fireman Clint Stephenson for his dedicated and outstanding service to the Denton Fire Department and the city of Denton, Texas.

Mr. Clint Stephenson has recently been named Rookie of the Year for his leadership and devotion to the Denton Fire Department. Mr. Stephenson never fails to put forth a positive attitude and he is continually respectful to his fellow firemen in the department. He pays close attention to detail during both station duties and on-scene care, leaving no room for error and helping others in need. Not only is he a dedicated and compassionate firefighter, but he is also a loyal coworker and friend.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Clint Stephenson for his hard work and selfless dedication to the Denton Fire Department and the citizens of Denton, Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington, and his service will be set as a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR WINNING THE 2007 CARIBBEAN SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Las Águilas Cibaerñas, the team representing the Dominican Republic at the 2007 Caribbean Series, for winning the championship on February 7. Wearing jerseys emblazoned with the words "Dominicano Soy" (I am Dominican), their pride in their country and in the game of baseball was evident as the team dominated this year's Caribbean Series, where they won a record five of their six games during the Series. Dominicans have once more demonstrated that they are the forerunners in the all-American sport of baseball. The Dominican Republic has now won 16 Caribbean Series titles, the most by anyone country in the history of these championship games. The Dominican Republic has won seven out of the last 11 Caribbean Series, demonstrating their passion and commitment to the sport.